

# Division of Radiological Health

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Guidance for requesting US DOT-SP 10656 upon receiving scrap metal or related recycling material that is radioactively contaminated.

Re-issued December 3, 2009

Scrap metal facilities and foundries may have equipment to detect radioactive material or devices that may have unknowingly been included in shipments arriving at the facility. The introduction of such radioactive devices may cause significant economic harm to the business due to clean up cost, lost product, and lost wages. In most cases the facility will refuse these shipments. Rejected shipments that are suspected of containing detectable quantities of radioactive materials are subject to the US Department of Transportation (DOT) Regulations, which require shipping papers describing the radioactive materials, and training for the drivers. The carrier or shipper may request an exemption from these requirements

The Virginia Department of Health's (VDH) Division of Radiological Health (DRH) participates in a program that the Conference of Radiation Program Directors (CRCPD) has initiated with DOT to delegate to the States the authority to issue an exemption for specific incidents within their respective jurisdictions. The specific DOT exemption is SP 10656. A copy of the exemption is attached to this guidance document and is also available at the following US DOT web site: [DOT-SP 10656](#)

Facilities that have detected radiation levels above background should contact DRH at (804) 864-8150 or instate 1-800-468-0138, and FAX (804) 864-8155 to provide information on the exemption form.

The DRH will follow up with the State Radiation Control Program in the state to which the shipment originated. When shipments are returned to Virginia, DRH may either inspect the shipment or require the facility to contract with a qualified consultant to survey the shipment. DRH will provide advice on disposal options, and depending on the nature of the radiation source, provide information regarding the licensure of the material.

**Attachment: DOT-SP 10656 (Eleventh Revision, Expiration December 31, 2010)**

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